

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
San Antonio Fire Department
MEMORANDUM

TO: SAFD and DSD Associates

FROM: Earl Crayton, II
Fire Marshal

DATE: April 18, 2006
Revised December 3, 2008

FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2006-019

TITLE: Fire Alarm Audibility Testing Requirements for Residential Occupancies

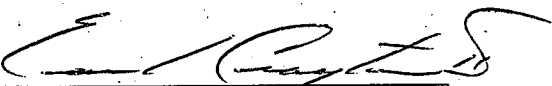
CODE EDITION: 2006 International Fire Code (IFC) as amended by COSA.

SECTION: 907.10.2

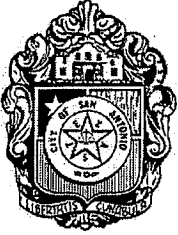
PURPOSE: To clarify the procedures for testing the minimum required audibility levels of fire alarm systems during system acceptance testing in residential occupancies.

QUESTION : During fire alarm system acceptance testing in residential occupancies (e.g., hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, etc.), is it required to operate (i.e., turn on or run) any of the following as part of the "ambient" sound levels of the residential units per Section 907.10.2: televisions, showers, bathroom exhaust fans, sinks and/or toilets? Additionally, is the bathroom door required to be open or closed during audibility testing?

ANSWER: Televisions, showers and bathroom exhaust fans are required to be on or running during the fire alarm audibility testing in residential occupancies. Sinks and toilets will not be required to be running during audibility testing. The door to the bathroom is required to be open. See SAFD Policy #FP06008



Earl Crayton, II
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Fire Marshal



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
SAN ANTONIO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

CLIFF MORTON DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SERVICES CENTER
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April 11, 2006
Revised December 3, 2008

Policy #FP06008

From: San Antonio Fire Marshal's Office

Subject: Fire Alarm Audibility

According to the 2006 IFC Section 907.10.2, Audible Alarms, the audible alarm notification appliances shall provide a sound pressure level of 15 decibels (dBA) over the average ambient sound level or 5 dBA above the maximum sound pressure level having a duration of at least 60 seconds, whichever is greater. The following examples are given to clarify the City of San Antonio Fire Prevention Office interpretation of this section of the code for residential properties.

Example #1

The television set at a volume setting of fifty (50) percent would be considered ambient sound and the audibility of the fire alarm would have to be a minimum of 15 dBA over the average sound level.

Example #2

The shower or exhaust fan in the restroom would be considered a sound lasting more than 60 seconds, and the audibility of the fire alarm would be required to be a minimum of 5 dBA over this sound level. The shower and exhaust fan will be on, with the bathroom door open when the fire alarm test is conducted.

Example #3

The bathroom sink or toilet would not be considered ambient noise, or a sound lasting for more than 60 seconds and would not have to be considered for audibility when the fire alarm system is designed or tested.

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